

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A seal ~~configuration assembly~~, comprising:

a body adapted to contain internal pressure having an opening with an inwardly tapered peripheral sidewall[[s]];

a closure adapted to close the opening, the closure having an attachment portion larger than the opening and an axially projecting stopper portion adapted to fit closely within the opening, the stopper portion having an endless peripheral seal groove extending in spaced relation around the axis in which is positioned a peripheral seal adapted to sealingly engage the tapered peripheral sidewall[[s]] of the body in interference fit relation, thereby conforming to the tapered peripheral sidewall[[s]]; and

a backing ring of pliable memory retaining material positioned between the peripheral seal groove and the attachment portion of the closure, the backing ring engaging the tapered peripheral sidewall[[s]] of the body in interference fit relation and conforming to the tapered peripheral sidewall[[s]] while being sufficiently stiff as to resist extrusion flow under pressure, such that when the peripheral seal deforms in response to an increase in internal pressure within the body and extrusion gaps begin to form between the attachment portion of the closure and the body, the peripheral seal is extruded against the backing ring, which deforms that portion of the backing ring engaging the tapered peripheral sidewall of the body plastically deforming by changing shape and applying sealing pressure at the extrusion gaps to prevent the peripheral seal from entering the extrusion gaps.

LAW OFFICES OF
CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR JOHNSON KINDNESS^{PLLC}
1420 Fifth Avenue
Suite 2800
Seattle, Washington 98101
206.682.8100